

What is claimed is:

1. A method of improving data validation, comprising steps of:
  - defining one or more validation criteria; and
  - encapsulating the defined validation criteria with a data model to which they apply.
2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of using the defined validation criteria to validate a data value for the data model.
3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the validation criteria are expressed in a markup language notation.
4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the markup language notation is XML ("Extensible Markup Language) notation.
5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the data model and the validation criteria are expressed in a markup language notation.
6. A system for improving data validation, comprising:
  - means for defining one or more validation criteria;
  - means for encapsulating the defined validation criteria with a data model to which they apply; and

means for using the defined validation criteria to validate a data value for the data model.

7. The system according to Claim 6, wherein the data model and the validation criteria are expressed in a markup language notation.

8. The system according to Claim 7, wherein the markup language notation is XML (“Extensible Markup Language) notation.

9. A computer program product for improving data validation, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code means for defining one or more validation criteria;  
computer-readable program code means for encapsulating the defined validation criteria with a data model to which they apply; and  
computer-readable program code means for using the defined validation criteria to validate a data value for the data model.

10. The computer program product according to Claim 9, wherein the data model and the validation criteria are expressed in a markup language notation.

11. The computer program product according to Claim 10, wherein the markup language notation is XML (“Extensible Markup Language) notation.